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Title: Need to introduce a scheme for procurement of copra by NAFED at remunerative price in Tamil Nadu and other Southern States of the Country. - Laid.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): This is to bring to the notice of the government about the untold plight of coconut cultivators and more specifically those involved in copra cultivation. The price per kilogram of copra has dipped to the unprecedented level of Rs. 30/- per Kg which has critically affected the very survival of coconut farmers. The fluctuating price of this commodity in recent years is not only because of continuous drought but also due to pest attack which has affected the rural economy very badly.

Sir, coconut is cultivate as a commercial crop in the western belt of Coimbatore, Erode, Dindigul, Madurai, Karur, Theni and the most backward district of Dharamapuri and also Thanjavur, Trichy, Nagpattinam belt in the east besides Kerala and Karanataka. Not only large number of farmers but also thousands of labourers and small traders with their families face a financial crisis.

I request Hon'ble Minister to give immediate attention to this grave problem and provide immediate relief to the farmer by issuing necessary instructions for the purchase of corpas by NAFED at remunerative price Rs. 40 or 42 per kilogram.

I urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister to take early decision in this regard which would bring immense relief to large number of families depending on copra cultivation in the southern States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.